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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DULUTH MN
900 AM CDT SUN JUL 3 2011

...PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS FOR SOLON SPRINGS TORNADO...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS DETERMINED THAT DAMAGE TO THE
SOUTHWEST OF SOLON SPRINGS WISCONSIN WAS THE RESULT OF A TORNADO.
MORE DETAILS ARE PROVIDED BELOW.

IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THESE ARE PRELIMINARY FIGURES...AND THESE
MAY CHANGE PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL WEATHER
SERVICE STORM DATA.

* COUNTY: DOUGLAS COUNTY WISCONSIN

* BEGINNING POINT: 751 PM CDT JUL 1 2011
3.6 MILES SOUTHWEST OF SOLON SPRINGS
46.3157 / -91.8743

* ENDING POINT: 754 PM CDT JUL 1 2011
1.3 MILES WEST OF SOLON SPRINGS
46.3536 / -91.8488

* PATH LENGTH: 2.9 MILES

* PATH WIDTH: 300 YARDS

* EF-SCALE RATING: EF-2

* EST. PEAK WINDS: 120-130 MPH

* TORNADO WARNING: A TORNADO WARNING WAS IN EFFECT FOR THE
DAMAGED AREA FROM 730 PM TO 800 PM CDT.

* FATALITIES: NONE

* INJURIES: SOME INJURIES...UNKNOWN NUMBER AT THIS TIME

DAMAGE DESCRIPTION:

THIS WAS DETERMINED TO BE A TORNADO DAMAGE PATH DUE TO THE
CONVERGENT NATURE OF THE DAMAGE...THE NARROW AND ISOLATED NATURE OF
THE PATH...AND SEVERAL OTHER DAMAGE INDICATORS.

THE FIRST DAMAGE WAS OBSERVED ALONG E LEUSMAN ROAD WHERE MINOR TREE
DAMAGE HAD OCCURRED. ADDITIONAL MINOR TREE DAMAGE WAS VISIBLE
EXTENDING TO THE NORTH-NORTHEAST FROM THE ROAD.

THE INTENSITY OF THE TORNADO THEN GREATLY INCREASED AS IT APPROACHED
BILL RAMEL ROAD. TWO PROPERTIES ALONG BILL RAMEL ROAD SUSTAINED
SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. ON THE FIRST PROPERTY...A MANUFACTURED HOME WAS
SHIFTED 20 TO 30 FEET OFF ITS FOUNDATION...AND ROTATED ABOUT 30
DEGREES FROM ITS ORIGINAL ORIENTATION. PART OF THE SIDE OF THE
STRUCTURE WAS REMOVED...AS WELL AS PORTIONS OF THE ROOF. ANOTHER

LARGE METAL SHED HAD SECTIONS OF THE ROOF REMOVED. SEVERAL OTHER SMALL OUTBUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED...AND MOST TREES ON THE PROPERTY WERE UPROOTED. SOME WINDOWS ON A HOUSE WERE BLOWN IN. WINDS AT THIS LOCATION WERE ESTIMATED AROUND 100 MPH.

THE SECOND PROPERTY...JUST TO THE NORTH...ALONG BILL RAMEL ROAD SUSTAINED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE ON THE TORNADO PATH. A WOOD FRAME HOUSE WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED...WITH DEBRIS LOFTED A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE DOWNSTREAM. SOME PARTS OF THE STRUCTURE WERE FOUND ABOUT 1/3 MILE TO THE NORTH...BEHIND A NEIGHBORING HOUSE. THE LACK OF OTHER EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE INDICATORS SUGGESTS THAT THE STRUCTURE FAILED AT A LOWER WIND SPEED THAN WOULD BE NORMALLY EXPECTED. THE SOUTH WALL OF THE HOUSE HAD COLLAPSED FORWARD BUT REMAINED IN TACT...WHILE THE REMAINDER OF THE WALLS AND STRUCTURE APPEAR TO HAVE SLID OFF THE FOUNDATION...BEFORE BEING PULVERIZED BY THE COMBINATION OF STRONG WINDS AND AIRBORNE DEBRIS. TRAJECTORIES OF VARIOUS OBJECTS FURTHER CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF A TORNADO. SOME OF THE AIRBORNE DEBRIS HAD GOUGED OUT NARROW MARKS IN THE GROUND...ABOUT AN INCH OR TWO WIDE...AN INCH OR TWO DEEP...AND SEVERAL FEET LONG. A PARKED CAR NEAR THE HOUSE WAS FOUND IN THE SAME SPOT...BUT IT HAD BEEN SPUN. TREE DAMAGE NEAR THE HOUSE CONSISTED OF A LARGE STAND OF TREES ALMOST ENTIRELY SNAPPED AND UPROOTED. THE COMBINATION OF DAMAGE INDICATORS ON THIS PROPERTY SUGGEST WINDS PEAKED AT 120 TO 130 MPH...OR IN THE UPPER END OF THE EF-2 RANGE.

ON THE NEXT PROPERTY TO THE NORTH...JUST ACROSS RAMEL ROAD...AND TO THE EAST OF FERGUSON ROAD...MANY TREES WERE UPROOTED. A WINDOW ON THE HOUSE WAS BLOWN IN AND AN ANTENNA WAS SNAPPED. JUST TO THE EAST OF THIS HOUSE...ALONG FERGUSON ROAD...SIGNIFICANT TREE DAMAGE WAS FOUND. THIS INCLUDED A LARGE TREE THAT WAS WELL KNOWN TO RESIDENTS OF SOLON SPRINGS AND WAS A FEW FEET WIDE AT THE BASE OF THE TRUNK.

TREE DAMAGE CONTINUED TO BE NOTED FOR AN ADDITIONAL 1.4 MILES TO THE NORTHEAST...BUT NO OTHER STRUCTURES WERE IMPACTED. THE TORNADO ENDED NEAR COUNTY HIGHWAY A...TO THE WEST OF SOLON SPRINGS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DAMAGE NEAR THE SOLON SPRINGS AIRPORT WAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TORNADO...AND OTHER TREE DAMAGE AROUND THE AREA WAS ASSOCIATED WITH STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS. THE TORNADO DAMAGE PATH WAS NARROW AND DISTINCT...AND INCLUDED ONLY THE AREAS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING WAS FIRST ISSUED FOR THE SOLON SPRINGS AREA AT 708 PM CDT. THIS WAS REPLACED WITH A TORNADO WARNING THAT WAS ISSUED AT 730 PM CDT. THE TORNADO STRUCK BETWEEN 751 PM CDT AND 754 PM CDT.

THE LAST TORNADO TO STRIKE DOUGLAS COUNTY WAS ON AUGUST 23 1998 WHEN A F0 TORNADO BRIEFLY TOUCHED DOWN JUST NORTH OF MAPLE.

THE LAST STRONG TORNADO /RATED F2 OR HIGHER/ TO STRIKE DOUGLAS COUNTY WAS ON SEPTEMBER 3 1980 IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY.

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